



April 6, 2016

Via ARB Comment Submittal Form

Ladies & Gentlemen:

American Farmland Trust hereby respectfully submits the attached white paper in response to the call for comments on the 2030 Target Scoping Plan Update for the Natural and Working Lands sector.

As outlined in our paper, minimizing the conversion of agricultural lands will have a significant climate benefit, and is essential to achieving California's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

We recommend that the Scoping Plan Update incorporate a goal of reducing the statewide farmland conversion rate – now 42,000 acres per year – by 50% by the year 2030 and by 75% by the year 2050. We estimate that achieving this goal would save almost 700,000 acres of California's irreplaceable farmland and avoid 315 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and welcome the opportunity to further contribute to the formulation of California's climate targets.

Respectfully,

Edward Thompson, Jr.
California Director
American Farmland Trust